

The Third Sunday of Lent
March 24, 2019

“Looking about and seeing no one, he slew the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.” (Exodus 2:12)

“Moses, however, said to the Lord, ‘If you please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past, nor recently, nor now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and tongue.’” (Exodus 4:10)

In our first reading taken from Exodus 3, we again listen to the call of Moses. If we consider the importance people place upon perception (how we view others), it would seem that God should have chosen someone different to lead His people. We can speculate that God should have chosen a neat, clean shaven, well spoken, highly intelligent, businessman or lawyer, who also had tailored robes, and polished sandals. Moses, a murderer with a speech impediment, should never have been remotely considered. He does not “check the appropriate boxes” as a religious leader. God still chose Moses to be the leader of His people. It really makes one question how God views an individual as opposed to how we view that same individual. This leads me to the focal point of this reflection: what can we learn from God choosing to call Moses and how can this help us in our own daily lives?

We must begin by addressing two points: Who it is who calls and what is the message we have been called to give? Both points are quite easy to understand. It is God who calls us. I cannot stress this enough. It is God who calls each of us as He called Moses. He knows who we are. He knows our strengths and our weaknesses as He did with Moses. Still, God chooses to call us. He does so because only Moses, in his time, and we, in our time, have that certain ability to communicate His message to those around us. This is a beautiful aspect of what makes us unique. It is because we are unique and have lived the lives we have (good and bad mistakes making up our lives) that we can fully become His mouth, His hands, His ears, to those around us who are in need of seeing His face.

What is the message that we are all called to bring to the world around us? God’s call is for us to remind others that He never wants anyone to be without Him or apart from Him. For Moses, the message God wanted His people to know is that He had heard their cry. He was listening to them. Not only that, but He was going to act to relieve them of their oppression. For you and I, we are being asked to deliver a similar message to the world around us. God has heard the cry of His people. He wants us to remember that we have been redeemed from our sins. He has already freed us through the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of His Son. He wants us to remind others of this message and encourage them to live a life worthy of the call they have received. We can do this by both the way we live our own lives and the words that we choose to offer to others. I emphasize our actions ahead of our words, for words without actions are meaningless and empty. We should want to bring others into that deeper relationship with our Heavenly Father. We should not presuppose that someone else will be the face of God for another. We should want to be the face of God for whomever we meet this day. This is what Moses did to the best of his limited ability. This is what we should want to do to the best of our limited ability. With God’s help, all things (including the conversion of the world) are possible.